

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 05213 121509Z

44

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 IGA-02 SPM-01 SP-03 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 EB-11 IO-14 AGR-20 COME-00

SIL-01 LAB-06 HEW-08 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /168 W

----- 127667

R 121206Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4472

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 5213

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SPOP

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF POPULATION POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

REF: (A) STATE 112352, (B) LAGOS 4612, (C) LAGOS TOAID A-44,
(D) LAGOS TOAID A-29, (E) LAGOS TOAID A-42

1. EMBASSY HAS REVIEWED EFFECTS OF POPULATION FACTORS ON NIGERIA'S POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS, AND BELIEVES ANALYSIS PROVIDED IN REFERENCES (B), (C) AND (D) STILL APPLIES. MOST POINTS RAISED IN PARA 2, REF (A), RECEIVED ATTENTION IN THESE MESSAGES, PARTICULARLY REF (D). REF (E) COVERS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROSPECTS FOR NIGERIA DURING THE NEXT TEN YEARS, AND TOUCHES ON SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT POPULATION PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS DEVELOPMENT.

2. FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS MIGHT BE USEFUL IN UP-DATING EARLIER MESSAGES:
(A) POPULATION FACTOR WITH MOST IMMEDIATE POTENTIAL POLITICAL IMPACT IS RECENTLY COMPLETED NATIONAL CENSUS. POPULATION DISTRIBUTION DECIDES POLITICAL POWER IN NIGERIA, AND DEBATE OVER WHICH AREA HAS LARGEST POPULATION HAS HISTORICALLY BEEN MATTER OF CONSIDERABLE CONTROVERSY. UNLESS DIFFICULTIES OVER LATEST CENSUS CAN BE RESOLVED, NIGERIA LIKELY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LAGOS 05213 121509Z

TO FACE INCREASED DOMESTIC INSTABILITY, BUT WITH

LITTLE DIRECT IMPACT ON NATION'S INTERNATIONAL BEHAVIOR
POPULATION PRESSURES ALONE ARE NOT
LIEKLY TO INDUCE CHANGE IN PRESENT FMG DOMESTIC
OR INTERNATIONAL BEHAVIOR PATTERNS. (SEE REF C,
LAGOS 4125 AND LAGOS 5145 FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION
ON CENSUS.)

(B) CONTINUATION OF DECLINE IN AGRICULTURAL SECTOR
OF NIGERIAN ECONOMY COULD POSSIBLY LEAD TO FUTURE
DEMANDS FOR US FOOD, BUT HIS WOULD INVOLVE
COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION AND IN ANY EVEN BECOMES
LESS LIKELY AS FMG DEVOTES MORE OF ITS OIL REVENUE
TO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.

(C) AGE STRUCTURE OF NIGERIA'S POPULATION MIGHT
ALSO BE SEEN AS A POTENTIAL POLITICAL AND SOCIAL
PROBLEM. BULK OF POPULATION INVOLVED IN URBAN
DRIFT FROM RURAL AREAS REPORTEDLY ARE YOUNGER AGE
GROUP, WHO HAVE HIGHER EXPECTATIONS AND GREATER
PROPENSITY FOR DIRECT ACTION TO DEMONSTRATE
GRIEVANCES. INCREASED URBAN INFLUX OF THIS AGE
GROUP, COMBINED WITH HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AND
LACK OF EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS TO FACILITATE SETTLE-
MENT, COULD CREATE AN UNSTABLE SITUATION IN URBAN
AREAS WITH CONSEQUENT THREAT TO DOMESTIC STABILITY.

(D) NIGERIA'S POPULATION AND RELATED ISSUES ARE
DISCUSSED FREELY AND OPENLY IN LOCAL PRESS. INTER-
NATIONAL POPULATION ISSUES AND EVENTS, SUCH AS
SPY AND WPC, RECEIVE VIRTUALLY NO MEDIA ATTENTION.
FMG FEDERAL OFFICE OF STATISTICS, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS
NO PLANS PARTICIPATE IN WFS. POLICY MAKING AND
FORMULATING GROUPS WITHIN NIGERIAN SOCIETY ARE
AWARE OF POPULATION PROBLEMS, BUT HAVE AS YET TO
EMBARK ON ANY SIGNIFICANT EFFORTS TO PASS THIS
AWARENESS ON TO REST OF NATION.

3. OFFICIAL USG ROLE UN INFPICING FMG POPULATION
POLICIES IS LIMITED, MAILY BY NIGERIAN SENSITIVITIES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LAGOS 05213 121509Z

TO, AND SUSPICIONS OF, WESTERN INITIATIVES IN THIS FIELD.
EMBASSY BELIEVES BEST POSSIBLE USG APPCOACH ON POPULATION
MATTERS WOULD BE TO WORK QUIETLY AND SLOWLY WITH FMG TO
BUILD MUTUAL TRUST SO AS TO ALLAY EXISTING FEARS OF
WESTERN-IMPOSED SOLUTIONS. USG SHOULD ALSO MAINTAIN
CONSTANT CLOSE CONTAI WITH SCHOLARS AND OTHER INTEG BSTED
AND INFLUENTIAL NIGERIANS OUTSIDE THE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT
STRUCTURE, AND USE THEIR CONCERNS TO HELP MOLD FMG

THINKING. USG MIGHT ALSO SERVE AS AN INFORMATION
BROKER; WORK TO BRING OTHER DONORS TOGETHER WITH FMG
OFFICIALS AND CONCERNED PARTIES ON A CASE-BY-CASE
BASIS; AND ACTIVELY PROMOTE THE UNFPA.
REINHARDT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POPULATION, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, CENSUS, POLITICAL STABILITY, SOCIAL CHANGE, POPULATION DISTRIBUTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LAGOS05213
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740151-1148
From: LAGOS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740653/aaaabtef.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) STATE 112352, (B) LAGOS 4612, (C,) LAGOS TOAID A-44
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <14 FEB 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REVIEW OF POPULATION POLICIES AND PROGRAMS
TAGS: SPOP, PFOR, SOCI, NI
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005